(c) The tender has been finalized within a period of four months of inviting the bids and the Purchase Orders are under issue by respective telecom circles.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Unified license policy

974. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new 'unified license' policy introduced by Government is linked to spectrum availability and a transparent spectrum allocation policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Anaddendum to New Telecom Policy-1999 has been issued to include the following categories of licences for telecommunication services:

(i) Unified Licence for Telecommunication Services permitting Licensee to provide all telecommunication/telegraph services covering various geographical areas using any technology;

(ii) Licence for Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) Services permitting Licensee to provide Basic and/or Cellular Services using any technology in a defined service area.

Guidelines for Unified Access Services License (UASL) permitting licensee to provide Basic and/or Cellular Services have since been issued. For migration of the existing operators to UASL, no additional spectrum will be allotted and the service provider will continue to provide wireless services in the already allocated/contracted spectrum. Guidelines for Unified Licence to provide all telecom services will be issued in due course of time after receipt of recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in this behalf and consideration thereof by the Government.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.